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(54) Title: IKK- α PROTEINS, NUCLEIC ACIDS AND METHODS**(57) Abstract**

The invention provides methods and compositions relating to an I κ B kinase, IKK- α , and related nucleic acids. The polypeptides may be produced recombinantly from transformed host cells from the disclosed IKK- α encoding nucleic acids or purified from human cells. The invention provides isolated IKK- α hybridization probes and primers capable of specifically hybridizing with the disclosed IKK- α genes, IKK- α -specific binding agents such as specific antibodies, and methods of making and using the subject compositions in diagnosis, therapy and in the biopharmaceutical industry.

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IKK- α Proteins, Nucleic Acids and Methods

INTRODUCTION

Field of the Invention

The field of this invention is proteins involved in transcription factor activation.

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Background

Cytokines trigger changes in gene expression by modifying the activity of otherwise latent transcription factors (Hill and Treisman, 1995). Nuclear factor κ B (NF- κ B) is a prominent example of how such an external stimulus is converted into an active transcription factor (Verma et al., 1995). The NF- κ B system is composed of homo- and heterodimers of members of the Rel family of related transcription factors that control the expression of numerous immune and inflammatory response genes as well as important viral genes (Lenardo and Baltimore, 1989; Baeuerle and Henkel, 1994). The activity of NF- κ B transcription factors is regulated by their subcellular localization (Verma et al., 1995). In most cell types, NF- κ B is present as a heterodimer comprising of a 50 kDa and a 65 kDa subunit. This heterodimer is sequestered in the cytoplasm in association with I κ B α a member of the I κ B family of inhibitory proteins (Finco and Baldwin, 1995; Thanos and Maniatis, 1995; Verma et al., 1995). I κ B α masks the nuclear localization signal of NF- κ B and thereby prevents NF- κ B nuclear translocation. Conversion of NF- κ B into an active transcription factor that translocates into the nucleus and binds to cognate DNA sequences requires the phosphorylation and subsequent ubiquitin-dependent degradation of I κ B α in the 26s proteasome. Signal-induced phosphorylation of I κ B α occurs at serines 32 and 36. Mutation of one or both of these serines renders I κ B α resistant to ubiquitination and proteolytic degradation (Chen et al., 1995).

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The pleiotropic cytokines tumor necrosis factor (TNF) and interleukin-1 (IL-1) are among the physiological inducers of I κ B phosphorylation and subsequent NF- κ B activation (Osborn et al., 1989; Beg et al., 1993). Although TNF and IL-1 initiate signaling cascades leading to NF- κ B activation via distinct families of cell-surface receptors (Smith et al., 1994; Dinarello, 1996), both pathways utilize members of the TNF receptor-associated factor (TRAF) family of adaptor proteins as signal transducers (Rothe et al., 1995; Hsu et al., 1996; Cao et al., 1996b). TRAF proteins were originally found to

associate directly with the cytoplasmic domains of several members of the TNF receptor family including the 75 kDa TNF receptor (TNFR2), CD40, CD30, and the lymphotoxin- β receptor (Rothe et al., 1994; Hu et al., 1994; Cheng et al., 1995; Mosialos et al., 1995; Song and Donner, 1995; Sato et al., 1995; Lee et al., 1996; Gedrich et al., 1996; Ansieau et al., 1996). In addition, TRAF proteins are recruited indirectly to the 55 kDa TNF receptor (TNFR1) by the adaptor protein TRADD (Hsu et al., 1996). Activation of NF- κ B by TNF requires TRAF2 (Rothe et al., 1995; Hsu et al., 1996). TRAF5 has also been implicated in NF- κ B activation by members of the TNF receptor family (Nakano et al., 1996). In contrast, TRAF6 participates in NF- κ B activation by IL-1 (Cao et al., 1996b). Upon IL-1 treatment, TRAF6 associates with IRAK, a serine-threonine kinase that binds to the IL-1 receptor complex (Cao et al., 1996a).

The NF- κ B-inducing kinase (NIK) is a member of the MAP kinase kinase kinase (MAP3K) family that was identified as a TRAF2-interacting protein (Malinin et al., 1997). NIK activates NF- κ B when overexpressed, and kinase-inactive mutants of NIK comprising its TRAF2-interacting C-terminal domain (NIK₍₆₂₄₋₉₄₇₎) or lacking two crucial lysine residues in its kinase domain (NIK_(KK429-430AA)) behave as dominant-negative inhibitors that suppress TNF-, IL-1-, and TRAF2-induced NF- κ B activation (Malinin et al., 1997). Recently, NIK was found to associate with additional members of the TRAF family, including TRAF5 and TRAF6. Catalytically inactive mutants of NIK also inhibited TRAF5- and TRAF6-induced NF- κ B activation, thus providing a unifying concept for NIK as a common mediator in the NF- κ B signaling cascades triggered by TNF and IL-1 downstream of TRAFs.

Here, we disclose a novel human kinase I κ B Kinase, IKK- α , as a NIK-interacting protein. IKK- α has sequence similarity to the conceptual translate of a previously identified open reading frame (SEQ ID NO:5) postulated to encode a serine-threonine kinase of unknown function ('Conserved Helix-loop-helix Ubiquitous Kinase' or CHUK, Connelly and Marcu, 1995; Mock et al., 1995). Catalytically inactive mutants of IKK- α are shown to suppress NF- κ B activation induced by TNF and IL-1 stimulation as well as by TRAF and NIK overexpression; transiently expressed IKK- α is shown to associate with the endogenous I κ B α complex; and IKK- α is shown to phosphorylate I κ B α on serines 32 and 36.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides methods and compositions relating to isolated IKK- α polypeptides, related nucleic acids, polypeptide domains thereof having IKK- α -specific structure and activity and modulators of IKK- α function, particularly I κ B kinase activity. IKK- α polypeptides can regulate NF κ B activation and hence provide important regulators of cell function. The polypeptides may be produced recombinantly from transformed host cells from the subject IKK- α polypeptide encoding nucleic acids or purified from mammalian cells. The invention provides isolated IKK- α hybridization probes and primers capable of specifically hybridizing with the disclosed IKK- α gene, IKK- α -specific binding agents such as specific antibodies, and methods of making and using the subject compositions in diagnosis (e.g. genetic hybridization screens for IKK- α transcripts), therapy (e.g. IKK- α kinase inhibitors to inhibit TNF signal transduction) and in the biopharmaceutical industry (e.g. as immunogens, reagents for isolating other transcriptional regulators, reagents for screening chemical libraries for lead pharmacological agents, etc.).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The nucleotide sequence of a natural cDNA encoding a human IKK- α polypeptide is shown as SEQ ID NO:3, and the full conceptual translate is shown as SEQ ID NO:4. The IKK- α polypeptides of the invention include incomplete translates of SEQ ID NO:3, particularly of SEQ ID NO:3, residues 1-638, which translates and deletion mutants of SEQ ID NO:4 have human IKK- α -specific amino acid sequence, binding specificity or function and comprise at least one of Cys30, GluLeu604, Thr679, Ser680, Pro684, Thr686, and Ser678. Preferred translates/deletion mutants comprise at least a 6 residue Cys30, Glu543, Leu604, Thr679, Ser680, Pro684, Thr686 or Ser687-containing domain of SEQ ID NO:4, preferably including at least 8, more preferably at least 12, most preferably at least 20 contiguous residues which immediately flank said residue, with said residue preferably residing within said contiguous residues, see, e.g. Table I; which mutants provide hIKK- α specific epitopes and immunogens.

TABLE 1. Exemplary IKK- α polypeptides having IKK- α binding specificity

hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 1-30) hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 686-699)
hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 22-31) hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 312-345)
hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 599-608) hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 419-444)
hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 601-681) hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 495-503)
hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 604-679) hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 565-590)
hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 670-687) hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 610-627)
hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 679-687) hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 627-638)
hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 680-690) hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 715-740)
hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 684-695) hIKK- $\alpha\Delta 1$ (SEQ ID NO:4, residues 737-745)

The subject domains provide IKK- α domain specific activity or function, such as IKK- α -specific kinase or kinase inhibitory activity, NIK-binding or binding inhibitory activity, I κ B-binding or binding inhibitory activity, NF κ B activating or inhibitory activity or antibody binding. Preferred domains phosphorylate at least one and preferably both the serine 32 and 36 of I κ B (Verma, I. M., et al. (1995)). As used herein, Ser32 and Ser36 of I κ B refers collectively to the two serine residues which are part of the consensus sequence DSGL/IXSM/L (e.g. ser 32 and 36 in I κ B α , ser 19 and 23 in I κ B β , and ser 157 and 161, or 18 and 22, depending on the usage of methionines, in I κ B ϵ , respectively).

IKK- α -specific activity or function may be determined by convenient *in vitro*, cell-based, or *in vivo* assays: e.g. *in vitro* binding assays, cell culture assays, in animals (e.g. gene therapy, transgenics, etc.), etc. Binding assays encompass any assay where the molecular interaction of an IKK- α polypeptide with a binding target is evaluated. The binding target may be a natural intracellular binding target such as an IKK- α substrate, a IKK- α regulating protein or other regulator that directly modulates IKK- α activity or its localization; or non-natural binding target such a specific immune protein such as an antibody, or an IKK- α specific agent such as those identified in screening assays such as described below. IKK- α -binding specificity may assayed by kinase activity or binding equilibrium constants (usually at least about 10^7 M $^{-1}$, preferably at least about 10^8 M $^{-1}$, more preferably at least about 10^9 M $^{-1}$), by the ability of the subject polypeptide to function as negative mutants in IKK- α -expressing cells, to elicit IKK- α specific antibody in a heterologous host (e.g. a rodent or rabbit), etc. In any event, the IKK- α binding specificity

of the subject IKK- α polypeptides necessarily distinguishes the murine and human CHUK sequences of Connelly and Marcu (1995) as well as IKK- β (SEQ ID NO:4).

The claimed IKK- α polypeptides are isolated or pure: an "isolated" polypeptide is unaccompanied by at least some of the material with which it is associated in its natural state, preferably constituting at least about 0.5%, and more preferably at least about 5% by weight of the total polypeptide in a given sample and a pure polypeptide constitutes at least about 90%, and preferably at least about 99% by weight of the total polypeptide in a given sample. In a particular embodiment, IKK- α polypeptides are isolated from a MKP-1 precipitable complex, isolated from a IKK complex, and/or isolated from IKK- β . The IKK- α polypeptides and polypeptide domains may be synthesized, produced by recombinant technology, or purified from mammalian, preferably human cells. A wide variety of molecular and biochemical methods are available for biochemical synthesis, molecular expression and purification of the subject compositions, see e.g. Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual (Sambrook, *et al.* Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory), Current Protocols in Molecular Biology (Eds. Ausubel, *et al.*, Greene Publ. Assoc., Wiley-Interscience, NY) or that are otherwise known in the art.

The invention provides binding agents specific to IKK polypeptides, preferably the claimed IKK- α polypeptides, including substrates, agonists, antagonists, natural intracellular binding targets, etc., methods of identifying and making such agents, and their use in diagnosis, therapy and pharmaceutical development. For example, specific binding agents are useful in a variety of diagnostic and therapeutic applications, especially where disease or disease prognosis is associated with improper utilization of a pathway involving the subject proteins, e.g. NF- κ B activation. Novel IKK-specific binding agents include IKK-specific receptors, such as somatically recombined polypeptide receptors like specific antibodies or T-cell antigen receptors (see, e.g Harlow and Lane (1988) Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory) and other natural intracellular binding agents identified with assays such as one-, two- and three-hybrid screens, non-natural intracellular binding agents identified in screens of chemical libraries such as described below, etc. Agents of particular interest modulate IKK function, e.g. IKK-dependent transcriptional activation. For example, a wide variety of inhibitors of IKK I κ B kinase activity may be used to regulate signal transduction involving I κ B. Exemplary IKK I κ B kinase inhibitors include known classes of serine/threonine kinase (e.g. PKC)

inhibitors such as competitive inhibitors of ATP and substrate binding, antibiotics, IKK-derived peptide inhibitors, etc., see Tables II and III. IKK specificity and activity are readily quantified in high throughput kinase assays using panels of protein kinases (see cited references and Examples).

Preferred inhibitors include natural compounds such as staurosporine (Omura S, et al. J Antibiot (Tokyo) 1995 Jul;48(7):535-48), produced by a marine organism, and synthetic compounds such as PD 153035, which also potently inhibits the EGF receptor protein kinase (Fry DW et al. Science 1994 Aug 19;265(5175):1093-5). Members of the tyrphostin family of synthetic protein kinase inhibitors are also useful; these include compounds which are pure ATP competitors, compounds which are pure substrate competitors, and compounds which are mixed competitors: compete with both ATP and substrate (Levitzki A and Gazit A, Science 1995 Mar 24;267(5205):1782-8). Additional IKK inhibitors include peptide-based substrate competitors endogenously made by the mammalian cell, e.g. PKI (protein kinase inhibitor, Seasholtz AF et al., Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 1995 Feb 28;92(5):1734-8), or proteins inhibiting cdc kinases (Correa-Bordes J and Nurse P, Cell 1995 Dec 15;83(6):1001-9). Additional small peptide based substrate competitive kinase inhibitors and allosteric inhibitors (inhibitory mechanisms independent of ATP or substrate competition) are readily generated by established methods (Hvalby O, et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 1994 May 24;91(11):4761-5; Barja P, et al., Cell Immunol 1994 Jan;153(1):28-38; Villar-Palasi C, Biochim Biophys Acta 1994 Dec 30;1224(3):384-8; Liu WZ, et al., Biochemistry 1994 Aug 23;33(33):10120-6).

TABLE II. Selected Small Molecule IKK Kinase Inhibitors

HA-100 ¹	Iso-H7 ¹²	A-3 ¹⁸
Chelerythrine ²	PKC 19-31	HA1004 ^{19,20}
Staurosporine ^{3,4,5}	H-7 ^{13,3,14}	K-252a ^{16,5}
Calphostin C ^{6,7,8,9}	H-89 ¹⁵	KT5823 ¹⁶
K-252b ¹⁰	KT5720 ¹⁶	ML-9 ²¹
PKC 19-36 ¹¹	cAMP-depPKinhib ¹⁷	KT5926 ²²

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20 TABLE III. Selected Peptidyl IKK Kinase Inhibitors

hIkB α , residues 24-39, 32Ala	hIKK- α , Δ 5-203
hIkB α , residues 29-47, 36Ala	hIKK- α , Δ 1-178
hIkB α , residues 26-46, 32/36Ala	hIKK- α , Δ 368-756
hIkB β , residues 25-38, 32Ala	hIKK- α , Δ 460-748
25 hIkB β , residues 30-41, 36Ala	hIKK- α , Δ 1-289
hIkB β , residues 26-46, 32/36Ala	hIKK- α , Δ 12-219
hIkB ϵ , residues 24-40, 32Ala	hIKK- α , Δ 307-745
hIkB ϵ , residues 31-50, 36Ala	hIKK- α , Δ 319-644
hIkB ϵ , residues 27-44, 32/36Ala	

30 Accordingly, the invention provides methods for modulating signal transduction

involving IkB in a cell comprising the step of modulating IKK kinase activity, e.g. by contacting the cell with a serine/threonine kinase inhibitor. The cell may reside in culture or in situ, i.e. within the natural host. Preferred inhibitors are orally active in mammalian hosts. For diagnostic uses, the inhibitors or other IKK binding agents are frequently labeled, such as with fluorescent, radioactive, chemiluminescent, or other easily detectable molecules, either conjugated directly to the binding agent or conjugated to a probe specific for the binding agent.

The amino acid sequences of the disclosed IKK- α polypeptides are used to back-translate IKK- α polypeptide-encoding nucleic acids optimized for selected expression systems (Holler et al. (1993) Gene 136, 323-328; Martin et al. (1995) Gene 154, 150-166) or used to generate degenerate oligonucleotide primers and probes for use in the isolation of natural IKK- α -encoding nucleic acid sequences ("GCG" software, Genetics Computer Group, Inc, Madison WI). IKK- α -encoding nucleic acids used in IKK- α -expression vectors and incorporated into recombinant host cells, e.g. for expression and screening, transgenic animals, e.g. for functional studies such as the efficacy of candidate drugs for disease associated with IKK- α -modulated cell function, etc.

The invention also provides nucleic acid hybridization probes and replication / amplification primers having a IKK- α cDNA specific sequence comprising at least 12, preferably at least 24, more preferably at least 36 and most preferably at least contiguous 96 bases of a strand of SEQ ID NO:3, particularly of SEQ ID NO:2, nucleotides 1-1913, and preferably including at least one of bases 1-92, 1811, 1812, 1992, 1995, 2034, 2035, 2039, 2040, 2050, 2055 and 2060, and sufficient to specifically hybridize with a second nucleic acid comprising the complementary strand of SEQ ID NO:3 in the presence of a third nucleic acid comprising (SEQ ID NO:5). Demonstrating specific hybridization generally requires stringent conditions, for example, hybridizing in a buffer comprising 25 30% formamide in 5 x SSPE (0.18 M NaCl, 0.01 M NaPO₄, pH7.7, 0.001 M EDTA) buffer at a temperature of 42°C and remaining bound when subject to washing at 42°C with 0.2 x SSPE; preferably hybridizing in a buffer comprising 50% formamide in 5 x SSPE buffer at a temperature of 42°C and remaining bound when subject to washing at 42°C with 0.2 x SSPE buffer at 42°C. IKK- α nucleic acids can also be distinguished using 30 alignment algorithms, such as BLASTX (Altschul et al. (1990) Basic Local Alignment Search Tool, J Mol Biol 215, 403-410).

The subject nucleic acids are of synthetic/non-natural sequences and/or are isolated, i.e. unaccompanied by at least some of the material with which it is associated in its natural state, preferably constituting at least about 0.5%, preferably at least about 5% by weight of total nucleic acid present in a given fraction, and usually recombinant, meaning they comprise a non-natural sequence or a natural sequence joined to 5 nucleotide(s) other than that which it is joined to on a natural chromosome. Recombinant nucleic acids comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, or requisite fragments thereof, contain such sequence or fragment at a terminus, immediately flanked by (i.e. contiguous with) a sequence other than that which it is joined to on a natural chromosome, or flanked by a native flanking region fewer than 10 kb, preferably fewer than 2 kb, which 10 is at a terminus or is immediately flanked by a sequence other than that which it is joined to on a natural chromosome. While the nucleic acids are usually RNA or DNA, it is often advantageous to use nucleic acids comprising other bases or nucleotide analogs to provide modified stability, etc.

The subject nucleic acids find a wide variety of applications including use as 15 translatable transcripts, hybridization probes, PCR primers, diagnostic nucleic acids, etc.; use in detecting the presence of IKK- α genes and gene transcripts and in detecting or amplifying nucleic acids encoding additional IKK- α homologs and structural analogs. In diagnosis, IKK- α hybridization probes find use in identifying wild-type and mutant IKK- α alleles in clinical and laboratory samples. Mutant alleles are used to generate allele-specific 20 oligonucleotide (ASO) probes for high-throughput clinical diagnoses. In therapy, therapeutic IKK- α nucleic acids are used to modulate cellular expression or intracellular concentration or availability of active IKK- α .

The invention provides efficient methods of identifying agents, compounds or lead 25 compounds for agents active at the level of a IKK modulatable cellular function.

Generally, these screening methods involve assaying for compounds which modulate IKK interaction with a natural IKK binding target, in particular, IKK phosphorylation of I κ B-derived substrates, particularly I κ B and NIK substrates. A wide variety of assays for 30 binding agents are provided including labeled *in vitro* protein-protein binding assays, immunoassays, cell based assays, etc. The methods are amenable to automated, cost-effective high throughput screening of chemical libraries for lead compounds. Identified reagents find use in the pharmaceutical industries for animal and human trials; for example,

the reagents may be derivatized and rescreened in *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays to optimize activity and minimize toxicity for pharmaceutical development.

In vitro binding assays employ a mixture of components including an IKK polypeptide, which may be part of a fusion product with another peptide or polypeptide, e.g. a tag for detection or anchoring, etc. The assay mixtures comprise a natural intracellular IKK binding target. In a particular embodiment, the binding target is a substrate comprising I κ B serines 32 and/or 36. Such substrates comprise a I κ B α , β or ϵ peptide including the serine 32 and/or 36 residue and at least 5, preferably at least 10, and more preferably at least 20 naturally occurring immediately flanking residues on each side (e.g. for serine 36 peptides, residues 26-46, 22-42, or 12-32 or 151-171 for I κ B α , β or ϵ - derived substrates, respectively). While native full-length binding targets may be used, it is frequently preferred to use portions (e.g. peptides) thereof so long as the portion provides binding affinity and avidity to the subject IKK polypeptide conveniently measurable in the assay. The assay mixture also comprises a candidate pharmacological agent. Candidate agents encompass numerous chemical classes, though typically they are organic compounds; preferably small organic compounds and are obtained from a wide variety of sources including libraries of synthetic or natural compounds. A variety of other reagents may also be included in the mixture. These include reagents like ATP or ATP analogs (for kinase assays), salts, buffers, neutral proteins, e.g. albumin, detergents, protease inhibitors, nuclease inhibitors, antimicrobial agents, etc. may be used.

The resultant mixture is incubated under conditions whereby, but for the presence of the candidate pharmacological agent, the IKK polypeptide specifically binds the cellular binding target, portion or analog with a reference binding affinity. The mixture components can be added in any order that provides for the requisite bindings and incubations may be performed at any temperature which facilitates optimal binding.

Incubation periods are likewise selected for optimal binding but also minimized to facilitate rapid, high-throughput screening.

After incubation, the agent-biased binding between the IKK polypeptide and one or more binding targets is detected by any convenient way. For IKK kinase assays, 'binding' is generally detected by a change in the phosphorylation of a IKK- α substrate. In this embodiment, kinase activity may quantified by the transfer to the substrate of a labeled phosphate, where the label may provide for direct detection as radioactivity, luminescence,

optical or electron density, etc. or indirect detection such as an epitope tag, etc. A variety of methods may be used to detect the label depending on the nature of the label and other assay components, e.g. through optical or electron density, radiative emissions, nonradiative energy transfers, etc. or indirectly detected with antibody conjugates, etc.

A difference in the binding affinity of the IKK polypeptide to the target in the absence of the agent as compared with the binding affinity in the presence of the agent indicates that the agent modulates the binding of the IKK polypeptide to the IKK binding target. Analogously, in the cell-based assay also described below, a difference in IKK- α -dependent transcriptional activation in the presence and absence of an agent indicates the agent modulates IKK function. A difference, as used herein, is statistically significant and preferably represents at least a 50%, more preferably at least a 90% difference.

The following experimental section and examples are offered by way of illustration and not by way of limitation.

EXPERIMENTAL

Identification of IKK- α

To investigate the mechanism of NIK-mediated NF- κ B activation, we identified proteins that associate directly with NIK by yeast two-hybrid protein interaction cloning (Fields and Song, 1989). An expression vector was generated that encodes NIK fused to the DNA-binding domain of the yeast transcription factor GAL4. This vector was used as bait in a two-hybrid screen of a human B cell cDNA library. From approximately six million transformants, eight positive clones were obtained, as determined by activation of *his* and *lacZ* reporter genes. Of these clones, three encoded a member of the TRAF family, TRAF3 (Hu et al., 1994; Cheng et al., 1995; Mosialos et al., 1995; Sato et al., 1995) and one encoded a novel protein we call IKK- α . Retransformation into yeast cells verified the interaction between NIK and IKK- α . A full-length human IKK- α clone was isolated by screening a Jurkat cDNA library with a probe generated from the 5'-end of the IKK- α two-hybrid clone. IKK- α comprises an N-terminal serine-threonine kinase catalytic domain, a C-terminal helix-loop-helix domain and a leucine zipper-like amphipathic α -helix juxtaposed in between the helix-loop-helix and kinase domain.

Interaction of IKK- α and NIK in Human Cells

The interaction of IKK- α with NIK was confirmed in mammalian cell

coimmunoprecipitation assays. Human IKK- α containing an N-terminal Flag epitope tag was transiently coexpressed in 293 human embryonic kidney cells with Myc epitope-tagged NIK or HA epitope-tagged TRAF proteins. Cell lysates were immunoprecipitated using a monoclonal antibody against the Flag epitope, and coprecipitating NIK or TRAF proteins were detected by immunoblot analysis with an anti-Myc or anti-HA monoclonal antibodies.

5 In this assay, IKK- α was able to coprecipitate NIK confirming the interaction between both proteins as detected for IKK- α by yeast two-hybrid analysis. Also, a deletion mutant IKK- α protein lacking most of the N-terminal kinase domain (IKK- α ₍₃₀₇₋₇₄₅₎) was able to associate with NIK, indicating that the α -helical C-terminal half of IKK- α mediates the interaction with NIK. In contrast to NIK, IKK- α failed to associate with either TRAF2 or TRAF3. However,

10 when NIK was coexpressed with IKK- α and TRAF2, strong coprecipitation of TRAF2 with IKK- α was detected, indicating the formation of a ternary complex between IKK- α , NIK and TRAF2.

Effect of IKK- α and IKK- α Mutants on NF- κ B Activation

To investigate a possible role for IKK- α in NF- κ B activation, we examined if transient overexpression of IKK- α might activate an NF- κ B-dependent reporter gene. An E-selectin-luciferase reporter construct (Schindler and Baichwal, 1994) and a IKK- α expression vector were cotransfected into HeLa cells. IKK- α expression activated the reporter gene in a dose-dependent manner, with a maximal induction of luciferase activity of about 6 to 7-fold compared to vector control. Similar results were obtained in 293 cells, where IKK- α overexpression induced reporter gene activity approximately 4-fold. TNF treatment did not stimulate the weak NF- κ B-inducing activity of overexpressed IKK- α in reporter gene assays. Thus, IKK- α induces NF- κ B activation when overexpressed.

We next determined the effect of overexpression of kinase-inactive IKK- α ₍₃₀₇₋₇₄₅₎ that still associates with NIK on signal-induced NF- κ B activation in reporter gene assays in 293 cells. Overexpression of IKK- α ₍₃₀₇₋₇₄₅₎ blocked TNF- and IL-1-induced reporter gene activation similar to overexpression of NIK₍₆₂₄₋₉₄₇₎. IKK- α ₍₃₀₇₋₇₄₅₎ was also found to inhibited NF- κ B-dependent reporter gene activity elicited by overexpression of TRAF2, TRAF6 and NIK. Taken together these results demonstrate that a catalytically inactive IKK- α mutant is a dominant-negative inhibitor of TNF-, IL-1, TRAF- and NIK-induced NF- κ B activation. This indicates that IKK- α functions as a common mediator of NF- κ B activation by TNF and IL-1 downstream of NIK.

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EXAMPLES

1. Protocol for at IKK- α - I κ B α phosphorylation assay.

A. Reagents:

- Neutralite Avidin: 20 μ g/ml in PBS.

- kinase: 10⁻⁸ - 10⁻⁵ M IKK- α (SEQ ID NO:4) at 20 μ g/ml in PBS.

5 - substrate: 10⁻⁷ - 10⁻⁴ M biotinylated substrate (21 residue peptide consisting of residues 26-46 of human I κ B α) at 40 μ g/ml in PBS.

- Blocking buffer: 5% BSA, 0.5% Tween 20 in PBS; 1 hour at room temperature.

- Assay Buffer: 100 mM KCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM MnCl₂, 20 mM HEPES pH 7.4, 0.25 mM EDTA, 1% glycerol, 0.5% NP-40, 50 mM BME, 1 mg/ml BSA, cocktail of protease

10 inhibitors.

- [³²P] γ -ATP 10x stock: 2 x 10⁻⁵ M cold ATP with 100 μ Ci [³²P] γ -ATP. Place in the 4°C microfridge during screening.

- Protease inhibitor cocktail (1000X): 10 mg Trypsin Inhibitor (BMB # 109894), 10 mg Aprotinin (BMB # 236624), 25 mg Benzamidine (Sigma # B-6506), 25 mg Leupeptin (BMB # 1017128), 10 mg APMSF (BMB # 917575), and 2mM NaVO₃ (Sigma # S-6508) in 10 ml of PBS.

B. Preparation of assay plates:

- Coat with 120 μ l of stock N Avidin per well overnight at 4°C.

- Wash 2 times with 200 μ l PBS.

20 - Block with 150 μ l of blocking buffer.

- Wash 2 times with 200 μ l PBS.

C. Assay:

- Add 40 μ l assay buffer/well.

- Add 40 μ l biotinylated substrate (2-200 pmoles/40 μ l in assay buffer)

25 - Add 40 μ l kinase (0.1-10 pmoles/40 μ l in assay buffer)

- Add 10 μ l compound or extract.

- Add 10 μ l [³²P] γ -ATP 10x stock.

- Shake at 25°C for 15 minutes.

- Incubate additional 45 minutes at 25°C.

30 - Stop the reaction by washing 4 times with 200 μ l PBS.

- Add 150 μ l scintillation cocktail.

- Count in Topcount.

D. Controls for all assays (located on each plate):

a. Non-specific binding

b. cold ATP at 80% inhibition.

5 2. Protocol for high throughput IKK- α -NIK binding assay.

A. Reagents:

- Neutralite Avidin: 20 μ g/ml in PBS.

- Blocking buffer: 5% BSA, 0.5% Tween 20 in PBS; 1 hour at room temperature.

- Assay Buffer: 100 mM KCl, 20 mM HEPES pH 7.6, 1 mM MgCl₂, 1% glycerol,

10 0.5% NP-40, 50 mM β -mercaptoethanol, 1 mg/ml BSA, cocktail of protease inhibitors.

- ³³P IKK- α polypeptide 10x stock: 10⁻⁸ - 10⁻⁶ M "cold" IKK- α supplemented with 200,000-250,000 cpm of labeled IKK- α (Beckman counter). Place in the 4°C microfridge during screening.

15 - Protease inhibitor cocktail (1000X): 10 mg Trypsin Inhibitor (BMB # 109894), 10 mg Aprotinin (BMB # 236624), 25 mg Benzamidine (Sigma # B-6506), 25 mg Leupeptin (BMB # 1017128), 10 mg APMSF (BMB # 917575), and 2mM NaVO₃ (Sigma # S-6508) in 10 ml of PBS.

- NIK: 10⁻⁷ - 10⁻⁵ M biotinylated NIK in PBS.

B. Preparation of assay plates:

20 - Coat with 120 μ l of stock N-Avidin per well overnight at 4°C.

- Wash 2 times with 200 μ l PBS.

- Block with 150 μ l of blocking buffer.

- Wash 2 times with 200 μ l PBS.

C. Assay:

25 - Add 40 μ l assay buffer/well.

- Add 10 μ l compound or extract.

- Add 10 μ l ³³P-IKK- α (20-25,000 cpm/0.1-10 pmoles/well = 10⁻⁹ - 10⁻⁷ M final conc).

- Shake at 25°C for 15 minutes.

- Incubate additional 45 minutes at 25°C.

30 - Add 40 μ M biotinylated NIK (0.1-10 pmoles/40 μ l in assay buffer)

- Incubate 1 hour at room temperature.

- Stop the reaction by washing 4 times with 200 μ M PBS.
- Add 150 μ M scintillation cocktail.
- Count in Topcount.

D. Controls for all assays (located on each plate):

- a. Non-specific binding
- b. Soluble (non-biotinylated NIK) at 80% inhibition.

5

All publications and patent applications cited in this specification are herein incorporated by reference as if each individual publication or patent application were specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference. Although the foregoing invention has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity of understanding, it will be readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art in light of the teachings of this invention that certain changes and modifications may be made thereto without departing from the spirit or scope of the appended claims.

10

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:4, or at least a 10 residue domain thereof comprising at least one of Cys30, Leu604, Thr679, Ser680, Pro684, Thr686 and Ser678.

5 2. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein said polypeptide has an activity selected from at least one of: a kinase or kinase inhibitory activity, a NIK-binding or binding inhibitory activity, an I κ B-binding or binding inhibitory activity and an NF κ B activating or inhibitory activity.

10 3. An isolated or recombinant first nucleic acid comprising a strand of SEQ ID NO:3, or a portion thereof having at least 24 contiguous bases of SEQ ID NO:3 and including at least one of bases 1-92, 1811, 1812, 1992, 1995, 2034, 2035, 2039, 2040, 2050, 2055 and 2060, sufficient to specifically hybridize with a second nucleic acid comprising the complementary strand of SEQ ID NO:3 in the presence of a third nucleic acid comprising (SEQ ID NO:5).

15 4. A recombinant nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to claim 1.

5. A cell comprising a nucleic acid according to claim 4.

20 6. A method of making an isolated polypeptide according to claim 1, said method comprising steps: introducing a nucleic acid according to claim 4 into a host cell or cellular extract, incubating said host cell or extract under conditions whereby said nucleic acid is expressed as a transcript and said transcript is expressed as a translation product comprising said polypeptide, and isolating said translation product.

25 7. A method of screening for an agent which modulates the interaction of an IKK polypeptide to a binding target, said method comprising the steps of:
incubating a mixture comprising:

30 an isolated polypeptide according to claim 1,
a binding target of said polypeptide, and

a candidate agent;

under conditions whereby, but for the presence of said agent, said polypeptide specifically binds said binding target at a reference affinity;

detecting the binding affinity of said polypeptide to said binding target to determine an agent-biased affinity, wherein a difference between the agent-biased affinity and the reference affinity indicates that said agent modulates the binding of said polypeptide to said binding target.

5 8. A method according to claim 7, wherein said binding target is a natural intracellular substrate and said reference and agent-biased binding affinity is detected as phosphorylation of said substrate.

10 9. A method of screening for an agent which modulates the interaction of an IKK polypeptide to a binding target, said method comprising the steps of:

15 incubating a mixture comprising: an isolated polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, or a deletion mutant thereof retaining I κ B kinase activity, an I κ B polypeptide comprising at least a six residue domain of a natural I κ B comprising at least one of Ser32 and Ser 36, and a candidate agent;

20 under conditions whereby, but for the presence of said agent, said polypeptide specifically phosphorylates said I κ B polypeptide at at least one of said Ser32 and Ser36 at a reference activity;

25 detecting the polypeptide-induced phosphorylation of said I κ B polypeptide at at least one of said Ser32 and Ser36 to determine an agent-biased activity, wherein a difference between the agent-biased activity and the reference activity indicates that said agent modulates the ability of said polypeptide to specifically phosphorylate a I κ B polypeptide.

10. A method for modulating signal transduction involving I κ B in a cell, said method comprising the step of modulating IKK- α (SEQ ID NO:4) kinase activity.

30 11. The method of claim 10, wherein said modulating step comprises contacting the cell with a serine/threonine kinase inhibitor.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

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(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: IKK- α Proteins, Nucleic Acids and Methods

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20 (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

(A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk

(B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible

(C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS

(D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.30

25 (vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:

(A) APPLICATION NUMBER:

(B) FILING DATE:

(C) CLASSIFICATION:

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40 (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 2268 base pairs

- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

5

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

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	ATTGCCATCA AGCA GTGCCG GCAGGAGCTC AGCCCCCGA ACCGAGAGCG GTGGTGCTG	180
10	GAGATCCAGA TCATGAGAAG GCTGACCCAC CCCAATGTGG TGCGTGCCTG AGATGTCCCT	240
	GAGGGGATGC AGAACCTGGC GCCCAATGAC CTGCCCCCTGC TGCCCATGGA GTACTGCCA	300
	GGAGGAGATC TCOGGAAGTA CCTGAACCAG TTTGAGAACT GCTGTGGTCT GCGGGAAAGGT	360
	GCCATCCTCA CCTTGCTGAG TGACATTGCC TCTGCGCTTA GATA CCITCA TGAAAACAGA	420
	ATCATCCATC GGGATCTAAA GCCAGAAAAC ATCGTCCCTGC AGCAAGGGAGA ACAGAGGTTA	480
15	ATACACAAAA TTATTGACCT AGGATATGCC AAGGAGCTGG ATCAGGGCAG TCTTTGCACA	540
	TCATTCTGGG GGACCCCTGCA GTACCTGGCC CCAGAGCTAC TGAGCAGCA GAAGTACACA	600
	GTGACCGTCG ACTACTGGAG CTTCGGCACC CTGGCCCTTG AGTGCATCAC GGGCTTCGG	660
	CCCTTCCTCC CCAACTGGCA GCCCGTGCAG TGGCATTCAA AAGTGCAGCA GAAGAGTGAG	720
	GTGGACATIG TTGTTAGCGA AGACTTGAAT GGAACGGTGA AGTTTTCAAG CTCTTTACCC	780
20	TACCCCAATA ATCTTAACAG TGTCTGGCT GAGCGACTGG AGAAGTGGCT GCAACTGATG	840
	CTGATGTGGC ACCCCCCGACA GAGGGGCACG GATCCCACGT ATGGGCCAA TGGCTGCTTC	900
	AAGGCCCTGG ATGACATCTT AAACCTAAAG CTGGTTCAT A TCTTGAACAT GGTCACGGC	960
	ACCATCCACA CCTACCCCTGT GACAGAGGAT GAGAGTCTGC AGAGCTTGAA GGCCAGAAC	1020
	CAACAGGACA CGGGCATCCC AGAGGAGGAC CAGGAGCTGC TGCAAGGAAGC GGGCCTGGCG	1080
25	TTGATCCCCG ATAAGCCTGC CACTCAGTGT ATTTCAGACG GCAAGTTAAA TGAGGGCCAC	1140
	ACATTGGACA TGGATCTTGT TTTTCTCTTT GACAACAGTA AAATCACCTA TGAGACTCAG	1200
	ATCTCCCCAC GGCCCCAACCC TGAAAGTGTG AGCTGTATCC TTCAAGAGCC CAAGAGGAAT	1260
	CTCGCCTCT TCCAGCTGAG GAAGGTGTGG GGCCAGGTCT GGACAGCAT CCAGACCTG	1320
	AAGGAAGATT GCAACCGGCT GCAGCAGGGA CAGCGAGCCG CCATGATGAA TCTCCTCCGA	1380
30	AACAACAGCT GCCTCTCCAA AATGAAGAAT TCCATGGCTT CCATGTCTCA GCAGCTCAAG	1440
	GCCAAGTTGG ATTCTCTCAA AACCAGCATC CAGATTGACC TGGAGAAGTA CAGCGAGCAA	1500
	ACCGAGTTTG GGATCACATC AGATAAAACTG CTGCTGGCT GGAGGGAAAT GGAGCAGGCT	1560
	GTGGAGCTCT GTGGGGGGGA GAACGAAGTG AAACCTCTGG TAGAACGGAT GATGGCTCTG	1620
	CAGACCGACA TTGTTGACTT ACAGAGGAGC CCCATGGGCC GGAAGCAGGG GGGAACGCTG	1680
35	GACGACCTAG AGGAGCAAGC AAGGGAGCTG TACAGGAGAC TAAGGGAAAA ACCTCGAGAC	1740
	CAGCGAACTG AGGGTGACAG TCAGGAAATG GTACGGCTGC TGCTTCAGGC AATTCAAGAC	1800
	TTCGAGAAGA AAGTGCAGT GATCTATACG CAGCTCAGTA AAACGTGTGGT TTGCAAGCAG	1860
	AAGGCCTGG AACTGTGCCC CAAGGTGGAA GAGGTGGTGA GCTTAATGAA TGAGGTGAG	1920
	AAGACTGTG TCCGGCTGCA GGAGAAGCGG CAGAAGGAGC TCTGGAATCT CCTGAAGATT	1980
40	GCTTGTAGCA AGGTCCGTGG TCCTGTCACT GGAAGCCCGG ATAGCATGAA TGCCTCTCGA	2040
	CTTAGCCAGC CTGGGCAGCT GATGTCTCA CGCTCCACGG CCTCCAACAG CTTACCTGAG	2100
	CCAGCCAAGA AGAGTGAAGA ACTGGTGGCT GAAGCACATA ACCTCTGCAC CCTGCTAGAA	2160
	AATGCCATAC AGGACACTGT GAGGGAAACAA GACCAGAGTT TCACGGCCCT AGACTGGAGC	2220
	TGGTTACAGA CGGAAGAAGA AGAGCACAGC TGCCTGGAGC AGGCCTCA	2268

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 756 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 5 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

10 (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

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	Met	Lys	Glu	Arg	Leu	Gly	Thr	Gly	Gly	Phe	Gly	Asn	Val	Ile	Arg	Trp
		20														30
15	His	Asn	Gln	Glu	Thr	Gly	Glu	Gln	Ile	Ala	Ile	Lys	Gln	Cys	Arg	Gln
																35
	Glu	Leu	Ser	Pro	Arg	Asn	Arg	Glu	Arg	Trp	Cys	Leu	Glu	Ile	Gln	Ile
		50														60
20	Met	Arg	Arg	Leu	Thr	His	Pro	Asn	Val	Val	Ala	Ala	Arg	Asp	Val	Pro
		65														80
	Glu	Gly	Met	Gln	Asn	Leu	Ala	Pro	Asn	Asp	Leu	Pro	Leu	Leu	Ala	Met
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	Glu	Tyr	Cys	Gln	Gly	Gly	Asp	Leu	Arg	Lys	Tyr	Leu	Asn	Gln	Phe	Glu
																100
25	Asn	Cys	Cys	Gly	Leu	Arg	Glu	Gly	Ala	Ile	Leu	Thr	Leu	Leu	Ser	Asp
																115
	Ile	Ala	Ser	Ala	Leu	Arg	Tyr	Leu	His	Glu	Asn	Arg	Ile	Ile	His	Arg
																130
																135
																140
30	Asp	Leu	Lys	Pro	Glu	Asn	Ile	Val	Leu	Gln	Gln	Gly	Glu	Gln	Arg	Leu
																145
																150
																155
	Ile	His	Lys	Ile	Ile	Asp	Leu	Gly	Tyr	Ala	Lys	Glu	Leu	Asp	Gln	Gly
																165
																170
																175
	Ser	Leu	Cys	Thr	Ser	Phe	Val	Gly	Thr	Leu	Gln	Tyr	Leu	Ala	Pro	Glu
																180
																185
35	Leu	Leu	Glu	Gln	Gln	Lys	Tyr	Thr	Val	Thr	Val	Asp	Tyr	Trp	Ser	Phe
																195
																200
																205
	Gly	Thr	Leu	Ala	Phe	Glu	Cys	Ile	Thr	Gly	Phe	Arg	Pro	Phe	Leu	Pro
																210
																215
																220
40	Asn	Trp	Gln	Pro	Val	Gln	Trp	His	Ser	Lys	Val	Arg	Gln	Lys	Ser	Glu
																225
																230
																235
	Val	Asp	Ile	Val	Val	Ser	Glu	Asp	Leu	Asn	Gly	Thr	Val	Lys	Phe	Ser
																245
																250
																255
	Ser	Ser	Leu	Pro	Tyr	Pro	Asn	Asn	Leu	Asn	Ser	Val	Leu	Ala	Glu	Arg
																260
																265
																270

Leu Glu Lys Trp Leu Gln Leu Met Leu Met Trp His Pro Arg Gln Arg
 275 280 285
 Gly Thr Asp Pro Thr Tyr Gly Pro Asn Gly Cys Phe Lys Ala Leu Asp
 290 295 300
 Asp Ile Leu Asn Leu Lys Leu Val His Ile Leu Asn Met Val Thr Gly
 5 305 310 315 320
 Thr Ile His Thr Tyr Pro Val Thr Glu Asp Glu Ser Leu Gln Ser Leu
 325 330 335
 Lys Ala Arg Ile Gln Gln Asp Thr Gly Ile Pro Glu Glu Asp Gln Glu
 340 345 350
 Leu Leu Gln Glu Ala Gly Leu Ala Leu Ile Pro Asp Lys Pro Ala Thr
 10 355 360 365
 Gln Cys Ile Ser Asp Gly Lys Leu Asn Glu Gly His Thr Leu Asp Met
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 15 385 390 395 400
 Ile Ser Pro Arg Pro Gln Pro Glu Ser Val Ser Cys Ile Leu Gln Glu
 405 410 415
 Pro Lys Arg Asn Leu Ala Phe Phe Gln Leu Arg Lys Val Trp Gly Gln
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 Val Trp His Ser Ile Gln Thr Leu Lys Glu Asp Cys Asn Arg Leu Gln
 20 435 440 445
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 450 455 460
 Leu Ser Lys Met Lys Asn Ser Met Ala Ser Met Ser Gln Gln Leu Lys
 25 465 470 475 480
 Ala Lys Leu Asp Phe Phe Lys Thr Ser Ile Gln Ile Asp Leu Glu Lys
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 Tyr Ser Glu Gln Thr Glu Phe Gly Ile Thr Ser Asp Lys Leu Leu Leu
 500 505 510
 Ala Trp Arg Glu Met Glu Gln Ala Val Glu Leu Cys Gly Arg Glu Asn
 30 515 520 525
 Glu Val Lys Leu Leu Val Glu Arg Met Met Ala Leu Gln Thr Asp Ile
 530 535 540
 Val Asp Leu Gln Arg Ser Pro Met Gly Arg Lys Gln Gly Gly Thr Leu
 35 545 550 555 560
 Asp Asp Leu Glu Glu Gln Ala Arg Glu Leu Tyr Arg Arg Leu Arg Glu
 565 570 575
 Lys Pro Arg Asp Gln Arg Thr Glu Gly Asp Ser Gln Glu Met Val Arg
 580 585 590
 Leu Leu Leu Gln Ala Ile Gln Ser Phe Glu Lys Lys Val Arg Val Ile
 40 595 600 605
 Tyr Thr Gln Leu Ser Lys Thr Val Val Cys Lys Gln Lys Ala Leu Glu
 610 615 620
 Leu Leu Pro Lys Val Glu Glu Val Val Ser Leu Met Asn Glu Asp Glu

	625	630	635	640
	Lys Thr Val Val Arg Leu Gln Glu Lys Arg Gln Lys Glu Leu Trp Asn			
	645	650	655	
	Leu Leu Lys Ile Ala Cys Ser Lys Val Arg Gly Pro Val Ser Gly Ser			
	660	665	670	
5	Pro Asp Ser Met Asn Ala Ser Arg Leu Ser Gln Pro Gly Gln Leu Met			
	675	680	685	
	Ser Gln Pro Ser Thr Ala Ser Asn Ser Leu Pro Glu Pro Ala Lys Lys			
	690	695	700	
	Ser Glu Glu Leu Val Ala Glu Ala His Asn Leu Cys Thr Leu Leu Glu			
10	705	710	715	720
	Asn Ala Ile Gln Asp Thr Val Arg Glu Gln Asp Gln Ser Phe Thr Ala			
	725	730	735	
	Leu Asp Trp Ser Trp Leu Gln Thr Glu Glu Glu His Ser Cys Leu			
	740	745	750	
15	Glu Gln Ala Ser			
	755			

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

20 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 2238 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

25 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

	ATGGAGCGGC CCCCGGGGCT GCGGCCGGGC GCGGGCGGGC CCTGGGAGAT GCGGGAGCGG	60
30	CTGGGCACCG GCGGCTTCGG GAACGTCTGT CTGTACCAGC ATCGGGAACT TGATCTCAA	120
	ATAGCAATT A AGTCTTGTCG CCTAGAGCTA AGTACCAAAA ACAGAGAACG ATGGTGCCAT	180
	GAAATCCAGA TTATGAAGAA GTTGAACCAT GCCAATGTTG TAAAGGCCTG TGATGTTCC	240
	GAAGAATTGA ATATTTGAT TCATGATGTG CCTCTTCTAG CAATGGAATA CTGTTCTGGA	300
	GGAGATCTCC GAAAGCTGCT CAACAAACCA GAAAATTGTT GTGGACTTAA AGAAAGCCAG	360
35	ATACTTCTT TACTAAGTGA TATAGGGTCT GGGATTGAT ATTTGATGA AAACAAATT	420
	ATACATCGAG ATCTAAAACC TGAAAACATA GTTCTTCAGG ATGTTGGTGG AAAGATAATA	480
	CATAAAATAA TTGATCTGGG ATATGCCAA GATGTTGATC AAGGAAGTCT GTGTACATCT	540
	TTTGTGGGAA CACTGCAGTA TCTGGCCCCA GAGCTCTTGT AGAATAAGCC TTACACAGCC	600
	ACTGTTGATT ATTGGAGCTT TGGGACCATG GTATTTGAAT GTATTGCTGG ATATAGGCCT	660
40	TTTTTGCATC ATCTGCAGCC ATTTACCTGG CATGAGAAGA TTAAGAAGAA GGATCCAAG	720
	TGTATATTG CATGTGAAGA GATGTCAGGA GAAAGTTCGGT TTAGTAGCCA TTTACCTCAA	780
	CCAAATAGCC TTTGTAGTTT AATAGTAGAA CCCATGGAAA ACTGGCTACA GTTGATGTTG	840
	AATTGGGACC CTCAGCAGAG AGGAGGACCT GTTGACCTTA CTTTGAAGCA GCCAAGATGT	900
	TTTGTATTAA TGGATCACAT TTTGAATTG AAGATAGTAC ACATCCTAAA TATGACTTCT	960

	GCAAAGATAA	TTTCTTTCT	GTTACCACCT	GATGAAAGTC	TTCATTCACT	ACAGTCTCGT	1020
	ATTGAGCGTG	AAACTGGAAT	AAATACTGGT	TCTCAAGAAC	TTCTTTCAGA	GACAGGAATT	1080
	TCTCTGGATC	CTCGAAACC	AGCCTCTCAA	TGTGTTCTAG	ATGGAGTTAG	AGGCTGTGAT	1140
5	AGCTATATGG	TTTATTTGTT	TGATAAAAAGT	AAAACTGTAT	ATGAAGGGCC	ATTTGCTTCC	1200
	AGAAGTTAT	CTGATTGTGT	AAATTATATT	GTACAGGACA	GCAAAATACA	GCTTCCAATT	1260
	ATACAGCTGC	GTAAAGTGTG	GGCTGAAGCA	GTGCACTATG	TGTCTGGACT	AAAAGAAGAC	1320
	TATAGCAGGC	TCTTCAGGG	ACAAAGGGCA	GCAATGTTAA	GTCTTCTTAG	ATATAATGCT	1380
	AACTTAACAA	AAATGAAGAA	CACTTTGATC	TCAGCATCAC	AACAACGTAA	AGCTAAATTG	1440
	GAGTTTTITC	ACAAAAGCAT	TCAGCTTGAC	TTGGAGAGAT	ACAGCGAGCA	GATGACGTAT	1500
	GGGATATCTT	CAGAAAAAAAT	GCTAAAAGCA	TGGAAGAAA	TGGAAGAAA	GGCCATCCAC	1560
10	TATGCTGAGG	TTGGTGTAT	TGGATACTTG	GAGGATCAGA	TTATGTCCTT	GCATGCTGAA	1620
	ATCATGGAGC	TACAGAAGAG	CCCCTATGGA	AGACGTCAGG	GAGACTTGAT	GGAATCTCTG	1680
	GAACAGCGTG	CCATTGATCT	ATATAAGCAG	TTAAAACACA	GACCTTCAGA	TCACTCCTAC	1740
	AGTGACAGCA	CAGAGATGGT	GAAAATCATT	GTGCAACTG	TGCGAGTCA	GGACCGTGTG	1800
15	CTCAAGGAGC	TGTTGGTCA	TTTGAGCAAG	TTGTTGGGCT	GTAAGCAGAA	GATTATTGAT	1860
	CTACTCCCTA	AGGTGGAAGT	GGCCCTCAGT	AATATCAAAG	AAGCTGACAA	TACTGTCATG	1920
	TTCATGCAAGG	AAAAAAGGC	GAAAGAAATA	TGGCATCTCC	TTAAAATTGC	CTGTACACAG	1980
	AGTTCTGCC	GGTCCCTTGT	AGGATCCAGT	CTAGAAGGTG	CAGTAACCCC	TCAGACATCA	2040
	GCATGGCTGC	CCCCGACTTC	AGCAGAACAT	GATCATTCTC	TGTCATGTGT	GGTAACCTCCT	2100
	CAAGATGGGG	AGACTTCAGC	ACAAATGATA	GAAGAAAATT	TGAAC TGCC	TGGCCATTAA	2160
20	AGCACTATTA	TTCATGAGGC	AAATGAGGAA	CAGGGCAATA	GTATGATGAA	TCTTGATTGG	2220
	AGTTGGTTAA	CAGAATGA					2238

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

25 (1) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 745 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

30

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

35	Met	Glu	Arg	Pro	Pro	Gly	Leu	Arg	Pro	Gly	Ala	Gly	Gly	Pro	Trp	Glu
	1				5				10						15	
	Met	Arg	Glu	Arg	Leu	Gly	Thr	Gly	Gly	Phe	Gly	Asn	Val	Cys	Leu	Tyr
							20					25			30	
40	Gln	His	Arg	Glu	Leu	Asp	Leu	Lys	Ile	Ala	Ile	Lys	Ser	Cys	Arg	Leu
									35				40		45	
	Glu	Leu	Ser	Thr	Lys	Asn	Arg	Glu	Arg	Trp	Cys	His	Glu	Ile	Gln	Ile
									50			55		60		
	Met	Lys	Lys	Leu	Asn	His	Ala	Asn	Val	Val	Lys	Ala	Cys	Asp	Val	Pro
									65			70		75		80

Glu Glu Leu Asn Ile Leu Ile His Asp Val Pro Leu Leu Ala Met Glu
 85 90 95
 Tyr Cys Ser Gly Gly Asp Leu Arg Lys Leu Leu Asn Lys Pro Glu Asn
 100 105 110
 Cys Cys Gly Leu Lys Glu Ser Gln Ile Leu Ser Leu Leu Ser Asp Ile
 5 115 120 125
 Gly Ser Gly Ile Arg Tyr Leu His Glu Asn Lys Ile Ile His Arg Asp
 130 135 140
 Leu Lys Pro Glu Asn Ile Val Leu Gln Asp Val Gly Gly Lys Ile Ile
 145 150 155 160
 10 His Lys Ile Ile Asp Leu Gly Tyr Ala Lys Asp Val Asp Gln Gly Ser
 165 170 175
 Leu Cys Thr Ser Phe Val Gly Thr Leu Gln Tyr Leu Ala Pro Glu Leu
 180 185 190
 Phe Glu Asn Lys Pro Tyr Thr Ala Thr Val Asp Tyr Trp Ser Phe Gly
 15 195 200 205
 Thr Met Val Phe Glu Cys Ile Ala Gly Tyr Arg Pro Phe Leu His His
 210 215 220
 Leu Gln Pro Phe Thr Trp His Glu Lys Ile Lys Lys Lys Asp Pro Lys
 225 230 235 240
 20 Cys Ile Phe Ala Cys Glu Glu Met Ser Gly Glu Val Arg Phe Ser Ser
 245 250 255
 His Leu Pro Gln Pro Asn Ser Leu Cys Ser Leu Ile Val Glu Pro Met
 260 265 270
 Glu Asn Trp Leu Gln Leu Met Leu Asn Trp Asp Pro Gln Gln Arg Gly
 25 275 280 285
 Gly Pro Val Asp Leu Thr Leu Lys Gln Pro Arg Cys Phe Val Leu Met
 290 295 300
 Asp His Ile Leu Asn Leu Lys Ile Val His Ile Leu Asn Met Thr Ser
 305 310 315 320
 30 Ala Lys Ile Ile Ser Phe Leu Leu Pro Pro Asp Glu Ser Leu His Ser
 325 330 335
 Leu Gln Ser Arg Ile Glu Arg Glu Thr Gly Ile Asn Thr Gly Ser Gln
 340 345 350
 Glu Leu Leu Ser Glu Thr Gly Ile Ser Leu Asp Pro Arg Lys Pro Ala
 35 355 360 365
 Ser Gln Cys Val Leu Asp Gly Val Arg Gly Cys Asp Ser Tyr Met Val
 370 375 380
 Tyr Leu Phe Asp Lys Ser Lys Thr Val Tyr Glu Gly Pro Phe Ala Ser
 385 390 395 400
 40 Arg Ser Leu Ser Asp Cys Val Asn Tyr Ile Val Gln Asp Ser Lys Ile
 405 410 415
 Gln Leu Pro Ile Ile Gln Leu Arg Lys Val Trp Ala Glu Ala Val His
 420 425 430
 Tyr Val Ser Gly Leu Lys Glu Asp Tyr Ser Arg Leu Phe Gln Gly Gln

	435	440	445
	Arg Ala Ala Met Leu Ser Leu Leu Arg Tyr Asn Ala Asn Leu Thr Lys		
	450	455	460
	Met Lys Asn Thr Leu Ile Ser Ala Ser Gln Gln Leu Lys Ala Lys Leu		
	465	470	475
5	Glu Phe Phe His Lys Ser Ile Gln Leu Asp Leu Glu Arg Tyr Ser Glu		
	485	490	495
	Gln Met Thr Tyr Gly Ile Ser Ser Glu Lys Met Leu Lys Ala Trp Lys		
	500	505	510
	Glu Met Glu Glu Lys Ala Ile His Tyr Ala Glu Val Gly Val Ile Gly		
10	515	520	525
	Tyr Leu Glu Asp Gln Ile Met Ser Leu His Ala Glu Ile Met Glu Leu		
	530	535	540
	Gln Lys Ser Pro Tyr Gly Arg Arg Gln Gly Asp Leu Met Glu Ser Leu		
	545	550	555
15	Glu Gln Arg Ala Ile Asp Leu Tyr Lys Gln Leu Lys His Arg Pro Ser		
	565	570	575
	Asp His Ser Tyr Ser Asp Ser Thr Glu Met Val Lys Ile Ile Val His		
	580	585	590
	Thr Val Gln Ser Gln Asp Arg Val Leu Lys Glu Leu Phe Gly His Leu		
20	595	600	605
	Ser Lys Leu Leu Gly Cys Lys Gln Lys Ile Ile Asp Leu Leu Pro Lys		
	610	615	620
	Val Glu Val Ala Leu Ser Asn Ile Lys Glu Ala Asp Asn Thr Val Met		
	625	630	635
25	Phe Met Gln Gly Lys Arg Gln Lys Glu Ile Trp His Leu Leu Lys Ile		
	645	650	655
	Ala Cys Thr Gln Ser Ser Ala Arg Ser Leu Val Gly Ser Ser Leu Glu		
	660	665	670
	Gly Ala Val Thr Pro Gln Thr Ser Ala Trp Leu Pro Pro Thr Ser Ala		
30	675	680	685
	Glu His Asp His Ser Leu Ser Cys Val Val Thr Pro Gln Asp Gly Glu		
	690	695	700
	Thr Ser Ala Gln Met Ile Glu Glu Asn Leu Asn Cys Leu Gly His Leu		
	705	710	715
35	Ser Thr Ile Ile His Glu Ala Asn Glu Glu Gln Gly Asn Ser Met Met		
	725	730	735
	Asn Leu Asp Trp Ser Trp Leu Thr Glu		
	740	745	

40 (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 2146 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: double

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

5	(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:	
	GTACCAGCAT CGGGAACCTTG ATCTAAAAT AGCAATTAAG TCTTGTGCC TAGAGCTAAG	60
	TACCAAAAC AGAGAACGAT GGTGCCATGA AATCCAGATT ATGAAGAAGT TGAACCATGC	120
	CAATGTTGTA AAGGCCTGTG ATGTTCTGA AGAATTGAAT ATTTTGATTC ATGATGTGCC	180
	TCTTCTAGCA ATGGAATACT GTTCTGGAGG AGATCTCCGA AAGCTGCTCA ACAAACCAGA	240
10	AAATTGTTGT GGACTTAAAG AAAGCCAGAT ACTTTCTTA CTAAGTGATA TAGGGTCTGG	300
	GATTGATAT TTGCATGAAA ACAAAATTAT ACATCGAGAT CTAAAACCTG AAAACATAGT	360
	TCTTCAGGAT GTTGGTGGAA AGATAATACA TAAAATAATT GATCTGGAT ATGCCAAGA	420
	TGTTGATCAA GGAAGTCTGT GTACATCTT TGTGGAAACA CTGCACTATC TGCCCCAGA	480
	GCTCTTGAG AATAAGCCTT ACACAGCCAC TGTTGATTAT TGGAGCTTG GGACCATGGT	540
15	ATTTGAATGT ATTGCTGGAT ATAGGCCTT TTGCACTCAT CTGCAGCCAT TTACCTGGCA	600
	TGAGAAGATT AAGAAGAAGG ATCCAAAGTG TATATTTGCA TGTGAAGAGA TGTCAAGGAGA	660
	AGTTCGGTTT AGTAGCCATT TACCTCAACC AAATAGCCTT TGTAGTTAA TAGTAGAAC	720
	CATGGAAAAC TGGCTACAGT TGATGTTGAA TTGGGACCTT CAGCAGAGAG GAGGACCTGT	780
	TGACCTTACT TTGAAGCAGC CAAGATGTTT TGTATTAAATG GATCACATT TGAATTGAA	840
20	GATAGTACAC ATCCTAAATA TGACTTCTGC AAAGATAATT TCTTTCTGT TACCACCTGA	900
	TGAAAGTCTT CATTCACTAC AGTCTCGTAT TGAGCGTCAA ACTGGAATAA ATACTGGTC	960
	TCAAGAACCTT CTTTCAGAGA CAGGAATTTC TCTGGATCCT CGGAAACCAG CCTCTCAATG	1020
	TGTTCTAGAT GGAGTTAGAG GCTGTGATAG CTATATGGTT TATTTGTTG ATAAAAGTAA	1080
	AACTGTATAT GAAGGGCCAT TTGCTTCCAG AAGTTTATCT GATTGTGTA ATTATATTGT	1140
25	ACAGGACAGC AAAATACAGC TTCCAATTAT ACAGCTGCGT AAAGTGTGGG CTGAAGCAGT	1200
	GCACTATGTG TCTGGACTAA AAGAAGACTA TAGCAGGCTC TTTCAGGGAC AAAGGGCAGC	1260
	AATGTTAAGT CTTCTTAGAT ATAATGCTAA CTTAACAAAA ATGAAGAACAA CTTTGATCTC	1320
	AGCATCACAA CAACTGAAAG CTAAATTGGA GTTTTTTCAC AAAAGCATTG AGCTTGACTT	1380
	GGAGAGATAC AGGGAGCAGA TGACGTATGG GATATCTCA GAAAAAAATGC TAAAAGCATG	1440
30	GAAAGAAATG GAAGAAAAGG CCATCCACTA TGCTGAGGTT GGTGTCAATTG GATACCTGGA	1500
	GGATCAGATT ATGCTTTTGCA ATGCTGAAAT CATGGAGCTA CAGAAAGAGCC CCTATGGAAG	1560
	ACGTCAGGGA GACTTGATGG AATCTCTGGA ACAGCGTGC ATTGATCTAT ATAAGCAGTT	1620
	AAAACACAGA CCTTCAGATC ACTCCTACAG TGACAGCACA GAGATGGTGA AAATCATTGT	1680
	GCACACTGTG CAGAGTCAGG ACCGTGTGCT CAAGGAGCGT TTTGGTCATT TGAGCAAGTT	1740
35	GTTGGCTGT AAGCAGAAGA TTATTGATCT ACTCCCTAAAG GTGGAAGTGG CCCTCAGTAA	1800
	TATCAAAGAA GCTGACAATA CTGTCATGTT CATGCAGGGAA AAAAGGCAGA AAGAAATATG	1860
	GCATCTCCCTT AAAATTGCCT GTACACAGAG TTCTGCCCGC TCTCTGTAG GATCCAGTCT	1920
	AGAAGGTGCA GTAACCCCTC AAGCATAACGC ATGGCTGGCC CCCGACTTAG CAGAACATGA	1980
	TCATTCTCTG TCATGTGTGG TAACTCCTCA AGATGGGGAG ACTTCAGCAC AAATGATAGA	2040
40	AGAAAATTG AACTGCCTTG GCCATTAAAG CACTATTATT CATGAGGCAA ATGAGGAACA	2100
	GGGCAATAGT ATGATGAATC TTGATTGGAG TTGGTTAACAA GAATGA	2146

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US98/13782

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :C12N 9/12; C12Q 1/48

US CL :435/15, 194

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 435/15, 194

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

APS, CAPLUS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	MOCK, B.A., et al. CHUK, A Conserved Helix-Loop-Helix Ubiquitous Kinase, Maps To Human Chromosome 10 And Mouse Chromosome 19. Genomics. 1995, Vol. 27, pages 348-351, see entire document, especially attached sequence data.	1,2
X -	TRAENCKNER, E.B-M. et al. Phosphorylation Of Human IκB Alpha On Serines 32 and 36 Controls IκB-Alpha Proteolysis And NF-κB Activation In Response To Diverse Stimuli. EMBO J. 1995, Vol. 14, No. 12, pages 2876-2883. See entire document	1,2 -----
Y		7-9

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"B" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"A"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 OCTOBER 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

29 OCT 1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTInternational application No.
PCT/US98/13782**C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DIDONATO, J., et al. Mapping Of The Inducible I _K B Phosphorylation Sites That Signal Its Ubiquitination And Degradation. Mol Cell. Biol. April 1996, Vol. 16, No. 4, pages 1295-1304, see entire document.	1,2 -----
Y	LEE, F.S., et al. Activation Of The I _K B Alpha Kinase Complex By MEKK1, A Kinase Of The JNK Pathway. Cell. 24 January 1997, Vol. 88, pages 213-222, see entire document.	7-9 -----

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US98/13782

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION WAS LACKING

This ISA found multiple inventions as follows:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be searched, the appropriate additional search fees must be paid.

Group I, claims 1-2 and 7-9, drawn to a isolated polypeptide (IKK- α) and a method of using the polypeptide to screen for modulation of IKK.

Group II, claims 3-6, drawn to a nucleic acid, a cell containing the nucleic acid and a method of using the nucleic acid to make a polypeptide.

Group III, claims 10-11, drawn to a method of modulating signal transduction.

The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

Groups I and II are completely different chemical compounds, one being a polypeptide and the other being a nucleic acid. Group III is a method involving modulating IKK- α to modulate signal transduction. This is different from the method of Group I which is a method of screening.